

Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:22 PM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: Re: Has anyone "Approved" mil mbrs to wear uniforms at San Diego Pride Parade?

Thank you.

Rene' Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Community and Public Outreach
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 02:19 PM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: FW: Has anyone "Approved" mil mbrs to wear uniforms at San Diego Pride Parade?

Whoa ... just in, ma'am. I'll flight follow with (b)(6) V/R - (b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:11 PM

(b)(6)

Subject: Has anyone "Approved" mil mbrs to wear uniforms at San Diego Pride Parade?
Importance: High

The San Diego LGBT has posted a press release on their web site that is getting media & military member coverage. The lead in the release says "San Diego Pride officials are proud to announce that active duty servicemembers have received approval from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and their commanding officers to march in the America's Pride Parade Military Contingent while wearing their uniforms."

The parade is THIS Saturday.

See press release:

<http://www.sdpriide.org/temp/news/newsmedia/Y%20SERVICEMEMBERS%20AND%20THEIR%20FAMILIES%20TO%20JOIN%20PRIDE%20PARADE.pdf>

Please advise if your local commanders or you "approved" this. I've contacted Mr. Lopez and have requested a copy of whatever they are using as "approval from the Office of the Secretary of Defense."

We are researching the parade and simply want to provide accurate talking points for the Defense Press Office and to request accurate statements be posted online.

v/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

Secure Email: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

Visit us at www.ourmilitary.mil

Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 9:15 PM
To: (b)(6) SGTMAJ JCS OCJCS
Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt JCS DOM OCJCS/SEAC
Subject: Thanks

Thank you both for walking thru the LGBT thing with me today. Your timing was perfect and I really appreciate your counsel and friendship. (b)(6) came by and we were able to bring it to (b)(6) together. Tomorrow I will issue a memo to the PA Chiefs and provide them some policy guidance. (b)(6) will also inform the Chairman so he can tell the Chiefs. (b)(6) supported this approach. I will send you a copy of what I send to the PAOs.

Best

Rene'

Rene' Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Community and Public Outreach
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs

From: (b)(6) SGTMAJ USMC (US) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 08:56 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt JCS DOM OCJCS/SEAC; Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: Re: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Copy all below.

Unfortunate that she cannot meet here in the Pentagon. But happy to hear she is still willing to meet. Let's talk tomorrow on the phone. I can call you.

In the meantime I'll pass along that we can stand down at the SecDepts office.

If (b)(6) would like to meet and discuss ideas or ways that she can support the Armed Forces and she wants to have that discussion at her venue, I will gladly make time to meet with her.

R/

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 04:05 PM
To: (b)(6) SGTMAJ USMC (US)
Subject: (b)(6)

Hi (b)(6)

I just received this info from (b)(6) I would like to extend this invite to you and get your guidance on the possibility of guest. I would accompany the guest, she wants to spend time after concert back stage. This could really influence or relationship with her. Thanks for all of your support.

Keep Living the Dream

Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 5:09 PM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: RF- per our chat- SD LGBT Pride press release
Signed By: (b)(6)

Can you give me a call and I can provide the direction? (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:29 PM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: FW: per our chat- SD LGBT Pride press release

Ma'am: Super HOT!

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:14 PM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: FW: per our chat- SD LGBT Pride press release

FYI!!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Fernando Lopez [<mailto:fernando@sdpride.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:09 PM
To: (b)(6) OSD PA
Subject: RE: per our chat- SD LGBT Pride press release

Hi there (b)(6)

I was forwarded an email this morning and told this meant Navy personal could not wear their uniforms even if they had received previous approval. Is this something I should worry about or are people that went through the proper channels still ok. I want to make sure we are conveying the correct information.

Thanks again for your time.

Best,
Fernando

Subject: NMCSO active duty participation in community parades

Directors, SELs, DH's -

The San Diego Pride coordinators recently announced on their website that "service members have received approval from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and their

commanding officers to march in the America's Pride Parade Military Contingent while wearing their uniforms."

This is not accurate. There is no such authorization for this parade.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Public Affairs will be addressing this misinformation with the SD Pride coordinators.

Accurate guidance from OSD is as follows: While wearing civilian clothes, in your personal capacity, military members may march or ride in nonpartisan parades.

Also, it is our command policy that any media participation that identifies affiliation with the Naval Service requires PAO approval to ensure the member receives proper training for media participation.

I will put out a generic reminder in a Command Note about parade and media participation but I need your help in communicating these requirements in an informative and supportive manner that will keep our sailors from running afoul of DOD and Navy policy during this weekend's event.

Thanks in advance.

v/r

DEPCOM
Chat Conversation End
Sent from Mobile

Fernando Lopez

Administrative and Public Affairs Director

San Diego LGBT Pride

619-297-7683 x 109

619-861-7939 - Cell

619-260-3096 - Fax

www.SanDiegoPride.org <<http://www.sandiegopriderg.org/>>

Visit our Facebook <<https://www.facebook.com/naa.php#321/pages/SanDiegoPride-10244622776055>>

PrideLogo_no_date

Fostering Pride in, and Respect for, all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, communities locally and globally. Over the last 15 years, San Diego LGBT Pride has donated more than \$1.4 million to LGBT and LGBT supportive organizations.

✧Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:22 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades
Signed By: (b)(6)

Okay good, wasn't sure and the earlier events got completely out of control though I am entirely uncertain from where the nucleus was on that.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:10 AM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

Ma'am,

Roger. FYSA -- DPO is not working in a vacuum. Whenever (b)(6) receives an LGBT, ComRel policy or trademark inquiry, she promptly coordinates with us.

v/r,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:07 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: Re: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

Please ensure this is taken out of press ops as soon as possible. Policy guidance should come from CPO not the press desks. Perhaps as quick huddle with CPO/DPO this morning will ensure guidance to the Force comes from our Policy folks otherwise we are going to have press officer interpreting in some cases correctly and in others, incorrectly, the departments policy on matters related to comm rel. Pls correct if wrong but internal guidance on policy goes to (b)(6) and (b)(6) should have deferred despite the fact that she was on an lgbt event working group?

Rene' Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Community and Public Outreach
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 07:27 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

Thanks, (b)(6) Let's stay the course in prepping DASD's email. Looks/sounds like everyone is speaking with one voice (finally). (b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 7:25 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV DSD PA; Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: FW: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

FYSA --

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 5:14 PM
To: 'cschilling@wnd.com'

(b)(6)

Subject: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

Hello,

Below I've provided OSD policy -- for your specific questions about military member participation, would refer you to the services to discuss approval (cc'd here).

While wearing civilian clothes, in their personal capacity, military members may march or ride in nonpartisan parades.

Except when authorized per DoD or service policies (such as a community-relations approved ceremonial unit), military members are restricted from wearing uniforms while participating in parades.

We always recommend service members consult their chain of command before participating in any parade. When troops are requested to participate in parades, commanders must determine if military participation in the event is appropriate per DoD community relations policies and does not violate policies regarding wearing of the uniform, to include preventing any inferences that a service member's activities may imply official sponsorship or endorsement.

For more information see DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces:

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf>

Guidance and limitations on the wear of military uniforms is contained in DoD Instruction 1334.01 and can be found at: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/133401p.pdf>. Further, each service provides additional service-specific guidance.

(b)(6)

For up-to-date news and information see our Web site: www.defense.gov

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: cschilling@wnd.com [mailto:cschilling@wnd.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Duty Officer, Press Operations, OASD-PA

<http://www.defense.gov/faq/press-media.html> at 7/18/2012 2:02:10 PM

Name: Chelsea Schilling

Email:cschilling@wind.com

Phone: 916-474-5153

Agency: WND.com

Subject: Wearing of uniform in parade

Comment: Hi, my name is Chelsea Schilling, and I am a reporter with WND.com. I am well aware that members of the military are NOT allowed to attend political or advocacy events in uniform when they are not specifically given permission by the military. In fact, this applies to just about any event. Permission is required to show up in uniform. DoD Directive 1334.1 is pretty clear about this. However, I noticed in a report today, "Uniformed military to march in pride parade," that at least one Air Force senior recruiter ((b)(6)) and an Army soldier ((b)(6)) -- both active duty -- will march in a gay pride parade in San Diego this weekend. In fact, other military members are likely to join. Here's my question: Were these military members authorized to appear at this event in military uniform? If so, who authorized them to do so? Thank you for your assistance. -Chelsea Schilling 916-474-5153

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Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:28 AM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: FW: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades
Signed By: (b)(6)

Just feel we need to be ahead of DPD on this... we shouldn't be sending out guidance to service pa's after dpo has provided guidance at the AO level.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 7:25 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: FW: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

FYSA --

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 5:14 PM
To: 'cschilling@wnd.com'

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We always recommend service members consult their chain of command before participating in any parade. When troops are requested to participate in parades, commanders must determine if military participation in the event is appropriate per DoD community relations policies and does not violate policies regarding wearing of the uniform, to include preventing any inferences that a service member's activities may imply official sponsorship or endorsement.

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(b)(6)

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Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:02 AM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: Re: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

If we need to wait till 1000 I'm good. I want to get these out before the huddle

Rene' Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Community and Public Outreach
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 08:40 AM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

Ma'am: (b)(6) has been pressing on email and memo for you since arrival early this morning-- interrupted by Services calling, etc. I just pressed her, again, for final. Recommend we delay huddle until 0930 so I can scrub and get final to you prior. V/R - (b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:39 AM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: Re: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

I know... Maybe I'm over-nacting but I really wanted to be tight on this.

Rene' Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Community and Public Outreach
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 08:35 AM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

I agree, ma'am ... had no idea until this morning that (b)(6) had engaged. V/R - (b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:28 AM
To: (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: FW: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

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Subject: FW: RESPONSE - WND - Uniform Policy @ Parades

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<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf>

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(b)(6)

From: cschilling@wnd.com [mailto:cschilling@wnd.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Duty Officer, Press Operations, OASD-PA
Subject: Press Operations Contact Submittal

<http://www.defense.gov/faq/press-media.html> at 7/18/2012 2:02:10 PM

Subject: Wearing of uniform in parade

Comment: Hi, my name is Chelsea Schilling, and I am a reporter with WND.com. I am well aware that members of the military are NOT allowed to attend political or advocacy events in uniform when they are not specifically given permission by the military. In fact, this applies to just about any event. Permission is required to show up in uniform. DoD Directive 1334.1 is pretty clear about this. However, I noticed in a report today, "Uniformed military to march in pride parade," that at least one Air Force senior recruiter (b)(6) and an Army soldier (b)(6) -- both active duty -- will march in a gay pride parade in San Diego this weekend. In fact, other military members are likely to join. Here's my question: Were these military members authorized to appear at this event in military uniform? If so, who authorized them to do so? Thank you for your assistance. -Chelsea Schilling 916-474-5153

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REMOTE_HOST: 63.141.200.29

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Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:19 AM
To: (b)(6) Col JCS OCJCS PA
Subject: RE: Pride parade
Signed By: (b)(6)

Yes, the one commander that has said no is (b)(6). I need to get everyone off the idea that it is up to a local commander's discretion. By policy, events that are national in interest must be approved but OSD CPD and the authority is no longer up to the discretion of local commanders, we swoop down and decide. I now have an official request from AF and Navy on an opinion now and will ensure the Services know that this is an event that would allow uniforms so long as uniform policies are adhered to (i.e., no modifications to your uniform, etc.) Current policy would allow this. Since we have no requests for approval or support of a "troop formation" or a band or color guard, I do not plan to address that at all, only to say that individuals may wear their uniform and amplify the policy on that. I do think we have an update on numbers but I need to check on what they are and will get that to you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) COL USMC (US) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: Pride parade

Thanks. And did you get any more information on who's supporting (units) and estimated numbers of military participants/registered?

-----Original Message-----

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:07 AM
To: (b)(6) COL USMC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) COL USARMY (US); (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: RE: Pride parade

Totally agree and I reread the policy last night. I will send you what we have drafted before I send to pa chiefs.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) COL USMC (US) [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:57 AM
To: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) COL OSD PA; (b)(6) Col OSD PA
Subject: Pride parade

Rene: This may be DBE now but wanted to follow up on our discussion about the SD parade. I came by early this morning but your door was closed so I talked to (b)(6) since I couldn't be at the 0830 mtg. I still think a note to reiterate current guidance to the services, so we don't create news/controversy by having differences in the service participation (e.g. uniforms). However, we can't say service members can't be compelled to attend IF a unit has decided to support, as a unit. No different than support to other parades and events -- members of a unit that is providing official support can't "opt-in, or opt-out" (unless the unit commander approves their absence for whatever reason). And obviously individuals

can't be compelled to participate outside the unit's official participation.

Does that make sense?

r (b)(6)

(b)(6)



Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA

From: Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 3:50 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: Clarification of Guidance IRT Participation by Uniformed Service Members in Parades
Attachments: Clarification Guidance ref uniformed service member participation in parades.pdf; Request for Guidance Regarding the SD Pride Parade.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6)
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Gentlemen,

There seems to have been conflicting information transmitted by various sources in the past few days regarding participation by uniformed Service members in parades. I hope to assist you with additional guidance regarding the policies so you may push it to your local commanders. The attached memorandum clarifies my March 7, 2012, interim guidance that generally addresses participation in parades and civic celebrations.

Additionally, since the San Diego "American Pride" Parade has received national media attention and several Services have requested guidance IAW our existing DoD Community Relations policy, we have also rendered a decision specifically on this parade. That memorandum is also attached. Please ensure widest dissemination to your Community Relations personnel and local parties.

v/r
Rene'

Rene' Carbone Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Community and Public Outreach
Office of the Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs
Pentagon Room, 2E984

(b)(6)



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400

JUL 19 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (ATTN: MG LANZA)
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
(ATTN: BGEN KENNEDY)
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ATTN: RMDL MOYNIHAN)
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (ATTN: BRIG GEN KODLICK)

SUBJECT: Clarification of Guidance Regarding Service Members in Military Uniforms
Participating in Parades

References: (a) Memorandum, "Interim Guidance for Military Participation in Parades and Civic Celebrations," March 7, 2012
(b) DoD Directive 5410.18, "Public Affairs Community Relations Policy," May 30, 2007
(c) DoD Instruction 1334.01, "Wearing of the Uniform," October 26, 2005
(d) DoD Instruction 5410.19, "Public Affairs Community Relations Policy Implementation," November 13, 2001

This memorandum reiterates and clarifies my March 7, 2012, interim guidance regarding service members in uniform participating in parades, and extrapolates applicable policy.

Local commanders have unique knowledge of conditions in their communities. They generally are best positioned to evaluate the appropriateness and level of DoD participation in parades and other civic celebrations. Therefore, local commanders are authorized to use their discretion in determining service member participation in parades, provided their decision does not violate DoD policies regarding uniform wear or community relations activities.

However, any event that is likely to garner national or international interest or news media coverage shall be forwarded through command channels to the OASD(PA) for approval per reference (b). Approval shall be based upon program, sponsor, site, support criteria, and upon any recommendations offered by applicable commanders.

Pursuant to reference (c), the wear of the uniform by members of the Armed Forces (including retired members and members of Reserve components) is prohibited:

- during or in connection with furthering political activities, private employment or commercial interests, when an inference of official sponsorship for the activity or interest may be drawn.
- when wear of the uniform may tend to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces.
- when specifically prohibited by regulations of the Department concerned.



Pursuant to reference (b), community relations support must be confined to those activities that are of common public interest and benefit to a local, State, regional, national, or broadly representational community. Nonpartisan patriotic events open to the general public usually are of common interest and benefit.

In addition, support to events sponsored by organizations with a narrow membership base or interest, such as commercial enterprises, religious or sectarian organizations, ideological organizations, and political organizations and campaigns may occasionally be considered to be in the common public interest when it is clear that the support primarily benefits the community at large, rather than the sponsoring organization.

Key considerations in Reference (d) include:

- DoD personnel shall not support any event that provides a selective benefit to any individual, group, or organization, including any religious or sectarian organization, ideological movement, political campaign or organization, or commercial enterprise.
- When considering support to a non-Federal entity, commanders must be able and willing to provide similar support to comparable events sponsored by similar non-Federal entities.
- DoD personnel shall not officially endorse, or appear to endorse, any non-Federal entity event, product, service or enterprise, including membership drives or fund-raising activities. Participation shall not be approved when support would endorse, promote or sponsor any private individual, group or venture, or gives the appearance of doing so.

Also, community relations support or participation is not authorized for events that:

- are associated with partisan political activities.
- restrict admission, seating, or other accommodations based on race, creed, color, national origin, or gender.
- are sponsored by organizations whose constitution, bylaws, membership qualifications, or ritual are withheld from the general public.

Request widest dissemination of this memorandum to local commanders.

Please direct any questions or concerns to my subject matter experts, (b)(6)
at (b)(6) or (b)(6) or (b)(6) at (b)(6) or
(b)(6)



René C. Bardorf
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Community and Public Outreach



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400

JUL 19 2012

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
HEAD, COMMUNITY RELATIONS BRANCH
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
DIRECTOR, ENGAGEMENT DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF, COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Request for Guidance Regarding the San Diego Pride Parade

This is in response to requests from several Service components seeking guidance regarding service members in uniform participating in the San Diego Pride Parade on July 21, 2012, with the theme "America's Pride." We understand local commanders have been exercising their discretion on approval per current DoD Community Relations guidance; however, pursuant to DoDD 5410.18, OASD(PA) approval is being sought now since the event has garnered national media attention.

It is our understanding that the event organizers plan to have a portion of the parade that is dedicated to military members. Service members do not need approval to wear civilian clothes and march or ride in nonpartisan parades. However, we further understand organizers are encouraging service members to seek their commander's approval to march in uniform and to display their pride.

Based on our current knowledge of the event and existing policies, we hereby are granting approval for service members in uniform to participate in this year's parade, provided service members (1) participate in their personal capacity and (2) ensure the adherence to Military Service standards of appearance and wear of the military uniform. This approval is applicable for individual participation in the 2012 San Diego Pride Parade only.

René C. Bardorf

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Community and Public Outreach

